

Fairfax VOTER

April 2022

Volume 74, Issue 8

It's Time for Our Annual Meeting

Please plan to attend the LWWFA Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 30!

During this virtual meeting, we will elect new officers and consider and adopt an annual budget and biennial program plan.

Members may also give direction to the Board.

The meeting will feature guest speaker Linda Sittig on "How History Creates Strong Women."

Please have the enclosed Annual Meeting Kit with you when you attend.

Calendar

**No Unit Meetings in April.
Please Attend the Annual Meeting!**

April 2022

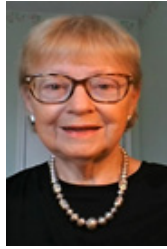
- 1 LWVNCA Board Meetings, Virtual
10:30am – 12:00pm
- 3 *Fairfax VOTER* Deadline
- 15 LWWFA's Birthday; born in 1948
- 20 LWWFA Board meetings, Virtual
10am - 12pm
- 22 Earth Day
- 30 Annual Meeting 9:30am, Virtual

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Presidents' Message



April is Volunteer Month.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area is powered by people who give their time and talents to support our mission. We depend on dedicated volunteers to support a wide-ranging list of activities. Our volunteers:

- Register voters at community events, food banks, high schools, and other venues.
- Create *Facts for Voters*, *What's on the Ballot*, *Know Before You Go*, and other materials.
- Organize and hold Candidate Forums.
- Study issues and write articles for the *Fairfax VOTER*.
- Learn about important issues and recommend positive solutions to problems.
- Advocate for League positions with Fairfax County officials and Virginia legislators.
- Keep watchful eyes on local and State government decisions.
- Contribute valuable service to Fairfax County and Virginia.
- Are nonpartisan change agents.

A huge “Thank You” to the many people who are volunteering. Your work is much appreciated!

To sustain this great work, we need more volunteers. When you volunteer, you learn more about our government, politics, and how laws are made. This is real-life learning that goes beyond what most people learned in high school or college. You gain a sense of purpose and realize that you are part of the League’s two-part mission to **Empower Voters** and **Defend Democracy**. You truly are providing a service to our County. Many of our newer members joined the League because they feel that they had to “do something” and not just stand and watch helplessly as the world around them is seemingly changing for the worse.

If you are new to volunteering, there are many ways you can become involved. We have opportunities to work on projects at home, such as writing postcards to remind people to vote. You could become involved in one-time activities, short-term projects, committee work, and leadership.

Look at the opportunities that are posted in ENews, the *Fairfax VOTER*, and on our website. Find something that appeals to your interests and availability. There is a job for everyone, and experienced volunteers provide training and assistance.

“Every person can make a difference, and every person should try.” – John F. Kennedy

A volunteer survey is coming. Please complete it.
The results will help us work stronger together.

We are looking forward to seeing you virtually on April 30 at the Annual Meeting.

Anu and Pat

Fairfax County 24-hr.
Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline:
703-360-7273; 711 TTY

LWVFA Fairfax VOTER 2021 - 2022

This newsletter, partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Fairfax Area Education Fund, is published 10 times each year from September to June by:

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Subscriptions to the *Fairfax VOTER* are available to non-Fairfax League members for \$15 per annum. Send your check to the above address and request a subscription.

Please e-mail address corrections to the office
or call 703-658-9150.



Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 30, 2022

A Virtual Meeting

Register online by April 28 and a Zoom link will be sent to you.

We will send you the registration link via ENews.

Register online: <https://2022am.eventbrite.com/>

The Zoom meeting link will also be available by April 29 on our website under Events or go to: www.lwv-fairfax.org/2022-annual-meeting

View the LWFVA Proposed Budget at: www.lwv-fairfax.org/2022-annual-meeting

Sign-in: 9:30 a.m.

General Fund meeting: 10:00 a.m.

Education Fund meeting: 11:20 a.m.

Keynote speaker: 12:15 p.m.

Use the same Zoom link for all parts of the meeting.

Keynote Speaker: Linda Sittig (12:15 p.m.)

"Do Women Really Hold Up Half the Sky?"

Linda Harris Sittig, award-winning journalist, noted author, and dedicated historical blogger will speak on HOW HISTORY CREATES STRONG WOMEN while telling several stories from her books. Linda is also an adjunct professor at Shenandoah University and a former reading specialist in Fairfax County Public Schools. **We know you will enjoy Linda's presentation!**

Visit her blog: www.strongwomeninhistory.com

Questions? Contact Anu Sahai and Pat Fege, president@lwv-fairfax.org

Program Director Notes

By Jessica Storrs

In February the units met to discuss Native Americans and the Vote. Many kudos and commendations were received for Vicki Mitchell's outstanding report on the Native American Voting Rights Act (NAVRA) with one unit calling it the "most informative and interesting meetings we have had."

Suggestions from the unit meetings for further League action included:

The Fairfax League acknowledge the tribal land that we occupy, which includes ancestral lands of the Manahoac, Dogue and Piscataway Nations;

Encourage education of our Native American history in school curriculums;

Encourage support of NAVRA.

Plan ahead: June will be a "Do your own thing" month. Units should consider what sort of meeting they would like to organize. Inspired by the February discussion, some units are now considering organizing a visit to the National Museum of the American Indian. The choice is yours!

Watch For League Volunteer Survey

League volunteers bring their knowledge, skills, expertise and dedication to the work of the League.

The attainment of the League's mission to encourage informed and active participation in government, to work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy is best achieved by the active involvement of volunteers.

To this end, the League encourages the active involvement of its members as volunteers at all levels of the League.

Whether you are a long-time experienced member or a new member, please take some time to complete the League Volunteer Survey that you will receive during National Volunteer Week, April 17-23. Your responses will help us to engage you in a meaningful way.

Help us to help you make a difference!

Call for Program Ideas 2022-23!

What informational issues should the League focus on in the upcoming year? Each month the *VOTER* newsletter spotlights a particular program topic and we need volunteer authors to make these discussions possible.

Topics suggested during the December 2021 Program Planning include:

Affordable housing in Fairfax County

Misinformation and disinformation in elections

Green space in Fairfax County

Review Fairfax County climate change and land use policies through a diversity, equity and inclusion lens and consider environmental justice

Mental health and school children

Other topics and ideas are very welcome! But remember - the key ingredient is not the idea but the person(s) to volunteer to make it happen. Please contact Jessica Storrs, jessica.storrs@lwv-fairfax.org, if you would like to discuss an idea for publication in Fall 2022 or Spring 2023.

Help Wanted!!

Volunteer Opportunity: Editor of Fairfax Voter

(Current Editor is nominated to serve as Fairfax League Co-President.)

If you have an eye for detail and are comfortable with publishing software (or willing to learn!) please consider being the next editor of the *Fairfax Voter*.

This opportunity allows you to volunteer approximately 12 hours over the course of a week early in the month, and can be done anywhere you have a computer.

For more information, contact Katherine at kmimgmanson@yahoo.com or Judy at Judy.helein@lwv-fairfax.org

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Adopts Resolution on Women's Human Rights

By Pat Fege

Jill Follows, representing the LWVFA, tirelessly worked with the CEDAW (UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) Working Group on a year-long campaign for implementation of CEDAW principles and passage of a Resolution supporting CEDAW by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The Working Group called for the collection of data, disaggregated by gender, from all County boards, authorities, commissions, and County staff. It also called for the creation of a committee to oversee the implementation of CEDAW principles and to receive notice of claims of discriminatory practices against women, and for a review of County laws, policies, and practices to identify discriminatory practices affecting women's economic security, safety, health, education, and participation in our democratic system of government.

The Resolution was passed on March 8, International Women's Day. The Resolution states that the Board of Supervisors will "...review the recommendations and best practices from the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and complete an analysis of the current activities being implemented in

Fairfax County, what could be implemented in the future, and what resources would be necessary for implementation."

We are honored that LWVFA, through Jill's efforts, was part of this work, and we look forward to supporting the intent of this Resolution in cooperation with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

For more information, go to: <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/cedaw>.



Fairfax Working Group for CEDAW receives County Resolution in support of women's human rights on International Women's Day (LWV - Fairfax)

LWVFA Membership Report

By Donna Blake

The LWVFA approved a concise and clear Membership Protocol, consistent with our by-laws to explain the various membership categories. The full membership Protocol can be found in the February Unit Letters. All Active Members should be receiving the following:

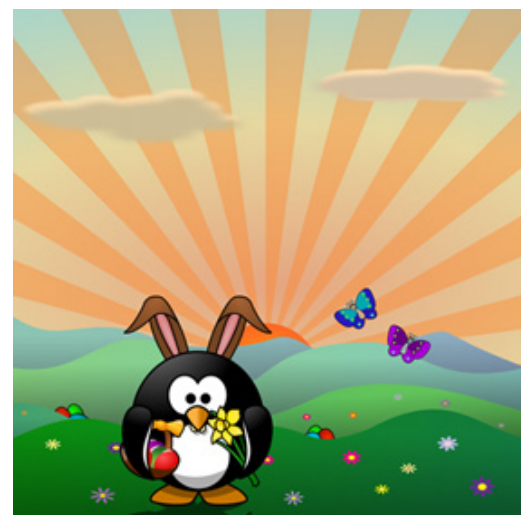
Fairfax Voter, a printed newsletter published 10 times a year by the LWVFA;

News and Updates, a weekly email from the LWVFA via Constant Contact;

The Virginia Voter, an email distributed 4 times a year by the Virginia League of Women Voters; and

Voter Express, a monthly email when *The Virginia Voter* is not published, from the Virginia League of Women Voters.

If you are not receiving all of these publications, your contact information needs to be updated. If you have comments relating to any issues raised here, please contact Donna Blake (membership@lwv-fairfax.org).



Fairfax County Redistricting Committee Agrees on Plan

By Pat Fege

We are proud that the LWVFA had representation on the Fairfax County Redistricting Advisory Committee. Anne Kant-er, our representative, provided many hours of service to this effort. Thank you, Anne! The Committee members were recognized at a recent Board of Supervisors' meeting.



Fairfax Board of Supervisors recognizes Redistricting Advisory Committee members. (LWVFA)

The Fairfax County's redistricting plan maintains nine local election districts for the Board of Supervisors and School Board. It minimizes disruption to residents and communities, shifting seven precincts in part or in whole to new districts. For more information, go to:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/adopted-2021-redistricting-map>

Cindy Butler served on the Committee to evaluate the

names of the nine districts with a focus on racial and social equity. To see the Committee's recommendation, go to:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/redistricting-advisory-committee-recommends-lee-and-sully-districts-be-renamed>

Environmental Update: Plastic Cunundrum

By Elizabeth Lonoff

This year's Earth Day theme is *Invest In Our Planet*. One of EarthDay.org's efforts is to end plastic pollution. While empowering people to make a difference, this campaign draws attention to how plastic in our environment harms marine and human health, litters beaches and landscapes, and clogs waste streams and landfills.

We are releasing more chemical and plastic pollution into the environment than the earth can support according to a study published in *Environmental Science and Technology* in January. Plastics, which are derived from fossil fuels, don't fully decompose. Instead, due to sunlight or wave action, they continually break down into smaller and smaller pieces called microplastics. These microplastics are ubiquitous and extremely difficult to clean up. Additionally, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions from plastics are expected to surpass those from coal by 2030.

Arbor Day's 150th Anniversary: Surprising Fact

How many species inhabit the Earth is a fundamental question in ecology. A recent study suggests there are some 73,000 tree species globally, about 9,000 of which have yet to be identified, largely in South America. Many of the unknown tree species may have very low populations and grow in remote tropical areas, making them vulnerable to anthropogenic changes in land use and climate. Similarly, only 1.6 million of the estimated 8.7 million animal species in the world have been identified so far.

If you plant a tree or shrub this year, which will help improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, please add it to the Virginia Department of Forestry's count at <https://arcg.is/WryDG>. For some ideas on selecting natives, see plantnovatrees.org/easy-tree-shrub-combos.

The amount of plastic generated globally each year is 350

million metric tons and growing, with the U.S. leading in plastic waste per person. *Only 9% is recycled.* The rest is burned or ends up in landfills or the ocean. We are eating about a credit card's worth of plastic every week and inhaling more. Plastic has been linked to impacting our lifespan and reproduction. Plastic kills a million seabirds and an estimated 100,000 whales, dolphins, and turtles each year. In a 2021 report, researchers from the World Economic Forum and Kearney consulting firm estimated that annual ocean plastic waste could be halved if 10% of all plastic packaging products were reused.

Single-use plastics make up half of plastic production. Plastic bottles and bottle caps rank as the 3rd and 4th most collected plastic trash items according to the Ocean Conservancy's annual September beach cleanups in more than 100 countries. Plastic water bottles can be convenient, but tap water is better regulated and uses fewer resources.

To solve plastic waste and pollution in a way that factors in climate change and biodiversity loss, we need a circular economy for plastic covering its full lifecycle. How to create one is outlined at <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/articles/this-article-is-not-about-plastic-pollution>. In what is being called the biggest environmental step since the Paris Accords, the UN agreed in March to a roadmap to finalize a legally-binding plastic pollution treaty by 2024. Perhaps there soon will be some movement on the Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act again before Congress.

While collective change is key, you can make a difference by switching to reusable alternatives, supporting businesses that make reducing plastic a company policy or use eco-friendly packaging materials, and participating in a cleanup. Watch for new opportunities, such as refilling plastic bottles at some higher-end beauty stores. The Kroger grocery store chain has partnered with the innovative reusable packaging platform Loop so that its Fred Meyers customers in Portland, OR, can purchase on a deposit basis a variety of brand-name products in reusable, durable packaging, which they can return for cleaning and reuse.

Visit [BeyondPlastic.org](https://www.beyondplastic.org) for a deeper dive into plastic, including potential problems with bioplastics and compostable plastics. Look to mushrooms for replacement packaging materials and breaking down plastic. Also, <https://www.qualitylogoproducts.com/promo-university/different-types-of-plastic.htm> explains the different types of plastic and if, into what, and how they might be recycled. In the resin identification code system on the bottom of plastic products, items marked 6, 7, or with more than one number won't be recycled from your blue bin. For anything else, check carefully with your hauler.

Local Earth Day events include NOVA's virtual Green Festival on April 19th and 20th and an advance screening of "*TRASHY: a zero waste film*" followed by a Q&A discussion at the Torpedo Factory on April 22nd. Both are free and require registration. The Smithsonian's Earth Optimism Summit and Folklife Festival will be combined to focus on inspiring conservation communities, June 22nd–26th and June 30th–July 4th.

How to Help Domestic Violence Victims Now!

By Adarsh Trehan

Domestic violence cases have been more acute in number and intensity during the pandemic, according to the Fairfax County Police Department and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. The number of COVID-19 cases is decreasing. However, many women are still home either because they are working from home or have quit working because of a lack of childcare. Either way, they are still experiencing social isolation.

“For victims of domestic violence, being home may not be the safest place, particularly as people are financially and emotionally stressed,” said Toni Zollicoffer, Division Director, Fairfax County's Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (*Reston Now*, April 3, 2020). “Victims and survivors of recent sexual and intimate partner violence face unique challenges during this period of extended social distancing and isolation.”

You can help by telling the victims you meet or know that they can call or text the Fairfax County's Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline: 703-360-7273, TTY 711. It is available for help 24-hours a day, every day. If the victims feel it is not safe for them to talk, tell them to text LOVEIS to 22522 to connect with the National Domestic Violence Hotline. They also can have online chats with RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network). As always, anyone who is in immediate danger should call 911.

Online information on Fairfax County's Domestic and Sexual Violence services is available at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/domestic-sexual-violence>. In addition, if you are interested, you can take training courses on domestic violence. Information is available at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/domestic-sexual-violence/awareness-about-domestic-and-sexual-violence>.



The League of Women Voters® of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)
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**The LWVFA Fairfax VOTER®
 April, 2022**

Anu Sahai, Co-President
 Pat Fege, Co-President
 Katherine Ingmanson, Editor

The League of Women Voters® is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person at least 16 years old, male or female, may become a member.

The League of Women Voters® never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters® name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

Please Support Our Work! The LWVFA Education Fund is supported by donations from our members and the public.
<https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/donate>



LWVFA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Dues year is July 1 – June 30

Name: _____ Unit (if renewing): _____
 Name of Second Household Member (if one): _____
 Street Address: _____ Condo/Apt No: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code +4: _____
 E-mail: _____ Phone: (C) _____ (H) _____

Membership Status: _____ New _____ Renewal

Membership Level (please check one):

Basic Membership:

Individual (\$75); Household (two members who share the same mailing address) (\$100);
 Limited Income (suggested donation: \$10); Student (Free!)

Membership Plus:

Suffragist (\$100); Advocate Household (two members who share the same mailing address) (\$150);
 Champion (\$300); Founders' Circle (\$500)

Membership Plus levels include basic membership PLUS a donation to the LWVFA General Fund. This money will support members of limited income, help invest in LWVFA web site technology, and support other priority projects. General Fund donations are not tax deductible.

Volunteer Interests:

Please visit surveymonky.com/r/LWVFAFairfaxVols to let us know your interests.

Please mail this completed form along with payment to:
 LWVFA, 4026-B Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003-2403